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EIGHT COLLECTIONS OF THE LINCOLN MUSEUM

LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

DR. LOUIS A. WARREN, DIRECTOR
MURRAY E. SCHLINTZ, LIBRARIAN
ETHEL V. HENNEFORD, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
"LINCOLN LORE"

Executive's Collection

For many years officials of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company have been gathering items associated with and referring to Abraham Lincoln. The famous Brady photograph of the president, which was presented to Mr. Arthur F. Hall at the time he organized the company twenty-five years ago, formed the nucleus of the collection. Such items as the original Pickett bronze, a replica of the Lincoln bust by Volk, also many portraits and curios have been gathered during the life of the organization. The

presence of these rare and valuable items encouraged the establishment of the present museum.

Foundation Collection

Recently a systematic and a concerted effort has been made to build up an outstanding collection of Lincolniana. Many valuable items, such as Lincoln letters, rare broadsides, medals and much current literature, have been secured, augmenting greatly the memorials gathered in years. Representatives of the company out in the field have supplemented the contributions made by the home office force.

Daniel Fish Collection

This collection of Lincoln literature gathered over a period of a great many years by Judge Fish and undisturbed since his death in 1924 need not be described to Lincoln admirers. Fish was one of the original "Big Five" Lincoln collectors and the first bibliographer to publish an exhaustive list of Lincoln publications. It is needless to say that his collection up to the time of the publication of his work in 1906 was as complete as he could make it.

Albert H. Griffith Collection

Another library, not so well known, but in some respects a more remarkable collection than the one gathered by Daniel Fish, was purchased from Albert H. Griffith, of Fisk, Wisconsin.

One of the features of the Griffith collection is the enormous amount of periodicals it includes. The newspapers and magazines containing Lincoln discussions literally run into tons. Hundreds of programs, catalogs, broadsides; in fact, everything that in any way related to Lincoln was eagerly sought by Mr. Griffith.

Thompson Collection

In the spring of 1928 the foundation purchased the Richard Thompson collection of manuscripts consisting of some Lincoln letters and valuable correspondence contemporaneous with Lincoln's term in Congress and his years as president. There are more than 2,000 manuscripts in this collection.

Hitchcock Collection

The Hanks papers, including 1,200 genealogical lists of Hanks families and hundreds of letters and records of the

family were brought together thirty years ago by Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock. This is by far the largest collection of Hanks papers and pictures extant.

Helm-Haycraft Collection

The early Kentucky manuscripts in the Helm-Haycraft collection, about 2,000 in number, were gathered over 100 years ago by John Helm, the surveyor, and Samuel Haycraft, the historian, in the communities where Lincoln's parents lived.

These old records provide a documentary background for the activities of Thomas Lincoln and his neighbors.

Warren Collection

The Warren collection of Lincoln source material represents the personal efforts put forth, over a period of ten years, by the director of the foundation, in the county court houses of Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, where thousands of records bearing on the Lincoln and cognate families were copied.

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